

September 18, 1997

SECY 97-210

For: The Commissioners

From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	
C	
Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	
H*	
Human Resources	
I	
Small Business & Civil Rights	
J	
Enforcement	
K*	
State Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N*
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P

Region II	P
Region III	P
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	
Q*	
Congressional Affairs	R

\*No input this week.

James L. Blaha  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
M Gamberoni, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

On September 10, 1997, the staff met with Messrs. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service to discuss their concerns about fire barrier penetration seals at Salem and other nuclear plants. The meeting entailed a presentation by the fire protection staff, and Mr. Lochbaum and Mr. Gunter made a joint presentation. The staff answered numerous questions and in some cases deferred a response until the staff's efforts in response to Congressman Markey are completed. The meeting was transcribed.

Salem Unit 2 remains at 47% power. After repairs have been completed to the 22 Steam Generator Feedwater Pump bearings, the 10% load swing test will be performed. The licensee has decided not to proceed above 50% power until the failed pressurizer level transmitter has been repaired. This channel has been placed in the "tripped" position as specified by their TSs. The repair is planned to take 3 to 4 days.

On September 9, 1997, the NRC's Salem Assessment Panel was briefed by the licensee on the licensee's self assessment of Salem Unit 2 performance. The Panel will brief the Regional Administrator on its assessment of Salem Unit 2 readiness to exceed 50% power.

Control manipulations required for individuals to meeting licensee requirements have been completed for nine operators and will continue for the remaining operators. The licensee is expected to make formal application to the staff requesting licenses for these candidates in the near future.

Crystal River 3 Restart Progress

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) continues to maintain its target for completing the corrective actions and restarting the facility

by December 1997. FPC has identified 33 potential licensing submittals that would require NRC approval prior to restart in December 1997. The large number of licensing submittals that are required to be processed within a very short period poses a significant challenge to staff resources.

On September 5, 1997, the staff met with FPC's licensing personnel to discuss the status of expected and active licensing submittals.

Florida Progress, FPC's parent company, has announced a joint venture with two other utilities, Cinergy Corporation headquartered in Cincinnati, and New Century Energies headquartered in Denver; to form a new company, Cadence. The new company will be based in Cincinnati and provide "one stop shopping" for energy management products and services. Cadence plans to supply power to its clients in states whose markets are open to competition.

Nine Mile Point, Unit 2

By letter dated September 8, 1997, Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) requested NRC consent to an indirect transfer of control over LILCO's license to possess and own an 18% interest in Unit 2, as a result of proposed corporate transactions involving LILCO, The Brooklyn Union Gas Company (BU), and the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). The request is based upon the following anticipated events:

1. LILCO and BU will form a corporation to be the holding company for (a) certain assets and operations of LILCO not acquired by LIPA and (b) BU.
2. LILCO will then transfer to one or more subsidiaries of this holding company LILCO's natural gas assets and operations, non-nuclear electric generating assets and operations, and common plant.
3. Thereafter, LIPA will acquire LILCO by purchasing its stock through a cash merger. At the time of LILCO's acquisition by LIPA, LILCO will still have its electric transmission and distribution system, its retail electric business, substantially all of its electric regulatory assets, and its share of Unit 2.
4. Finally, BU will engage in a merger with (and become a subsidiary of) the holding company, which, at that point, will have one or more subsidiaries owning the assets transferred by LILCO in step 2 above.

LILCO further states that if LIPA's purchase of LILCO should prove infeasible, then LILCO and BU plan to proceed nevertheless with their combination; in which case LILCO and BU would both become a subsidiary of the holding company. In any event, LILCO would continue to exist as an electric utility, as one of the co-owners and licensees of Unit 2.

Another co-owner and licensee of Unit 2, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG), also plans to restructure, become part of a holding company, and eventually divest itself of certain

non-nuclear generating assets. The NRC has scheduled a public meeting with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and counsel for NYSEG for September 16, 1997, to discuss these plans and a proposed submittal to NRC pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80.

#### McGuire Units 1 and 2 - Dual Unit Trip

On September 6, 1997, at 9:45 p.m., McGuire Units 1 and 2 automatically tripped from 100% power. The trip occurred because of the loss of control power to several plant components. The loss of control power was initiated when the alternate supply breaker to a non-safety 120-VAC instrument and control power bus opened. A post-trip investigation determined that a loose lug in the breaker led to an overheated breaker condition causing the breaker thermal overload protection to activate and open the breaker. The plant response to the event was uncomplicated in accordance with the plant design. All systems functioned as designed.

The staff is satisfied with the licensee's completed and planned corrective actions and believes that continued operation is safe. NRR will rereview the specific aspects of the McGuire design basis that led to the dual unit trip. The regional staff will perform appropriate follow-up inspections of the licensee's corrective actions.

#### Maine Yankee

By letter dated August 7, 1997, Maine Yankee certified to the Commission the permanent cessation of power operations and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessel. By letter dated August 27, 1997, Maine Yankee submitted to the Commission their post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR). In the PSDAR, Maine Yankee describes their planned decommissioning activities and schedule. Maine Yankee intends to decommission the facility in a manner that results in the prompt removal of the existing plant components. This approach is commonly referred to as the DECON alternative to decommissioning.

The staff is arranging public meetings in the vicinity of Maine Yankee to discuss the decommissioning of the facility. The first meeting is scheduled for October 7, 1997 at which the NRC staff will make a presentation to the public on the regulatory process for decommissioning a nuclear power plant. A second meeting will be held in early November to seek public comment on the Maine Yankee PSDAR. Several days prior to each meeting, the NRC staff will hold separate briefings for the local press to provide them with background information on the topics to be discussed.

### Palisades -- Dry Fuel Storage Cask Inspection Activities

The NRR staff issued the report of its inspection of the licensee's cask unloading procedure on September 4, 1997. The inspection found that the unloading procedure provides adequate direction for the safe unloading of VSC-24 dry fuel storage casks. The report also documented the licensee's completion of certain commitments made in response to NRC Bulletin 96-04. Following issuance of the inspection report, Region III issued a letter on September 5, 1997, to close the confirmatory action letter (CAL RIII-96-006A) issued following the occurrence of the Point Beach hydrogen ignition event. Closure of this CAL permitted the licensee to commence planned dry runs of cask loading operations on September 8, 1997.

As a result of findings of an SFP0 inspection of the VSC-24 cask vendor and fabrication subcontractor (documented in an August 29, 1997 inspection report), SFP0 held a teleconference with Consumers on September 5, 1997, and issued a supplement to the previously issued CAL (97-7-003) related to weld cracking observed during previous cask lid welding operations at Palisades and Arkansas Nuclear One. The CAL supplement was issued to ensure that staff concerns regarding undocumented welding performed during fabrication of several VSC-24 multi-assembly sealed baskets (MSBs) and the previously observed weld cracking are appropriately addressed. The licensee agreed to complete the actions identified in the CAL supplement before loading additional VSC-24 casks.

### South Texas Project, Unit 2 -- Loss of 3" of Level in the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP)

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE A

On August 31, following SFP 2B filter changeout, SFP purification subsystem 2B was placed in service. However, the filter vent and drain valves (both about 3/4" valves) were inadvertently left open. Operators identified, during the release of the associated equipment clearance order, that the valves had been misaligned (the licensee's program permits manipulation of components under certain types of clearance orders). Both valves were realigned at that time.

Investigation revealed that the water had been diverted to the waste water hold-up tank and the floor drain collection tank. The valve misalignment resulted in a 3" reduction in SFP level (from 66' 6" to 66' 3"). There was still another 2" to 3" before the low level annunciator would have alarmed in the main control room (setpoint  $\geq 66'$ ), and the Technical Specification limit is 23' above the active fuel (corresponding to a SFP level of about 62' 6").

The licensee is investigating the cause of the event. Resident inspectors are continuing to review this event in light of 3 additional loss of SFP water inventory events that have occurred during the last 2 years.

#### Perry Nuclear Power Plant

IBEW Local 270 began negotiations with plant management on Wednesday, September 10, 1997. Union members have already approved a strike vote and a strike may be imminent. Issues focus on job security and contracting out work that could be performed by union members. The strike would have a significant impact on the sixth refueling outage that is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 11.

IBEW members represent approximately 7% of the work force at Perry and these are generally non-licensed operators and maintenance personnel. The licensee has made the decision to bar union members from work within the power block during the outage and has developed contingency plans with a contractor (Ratheon) to perform their work. Non-union personnel have been shadowing union members during recent shifts.

If a strike is called, there will be a 24 hour grace period before picket lines are formed. While there is only 140 union members employed onsite, there are approximately 1700 IBEW union members in the vicinity of the plant and a large number of non-plant union members may join the picket lines.

The licensee does not plan to cross picket lines and has made tentative plans to lock-in approximately 700 plant employees. Plant personnel have been instructed to bring personal belongings to the office and to plan on being locked up within the facility for approximately three to five days beginning Thursday, September 11. The licensee is expected to seek a court order to permit contractors to enter the site for the refueling outage.

Regional inspectors are currently onsite to observe the outage activities. Due to their need to maintain unfettered access, the inspectors are exploring all available options including joining the licensee's lock-in.

#### D. C. Cook, Units 1 and 2

On September 8, 1997, the licensee began shutting down both units as a result of an issue raised during the ongoing NRC architect-engineer design inspection concerning the volume of water which would flow to the containment sump during certain accident scenarios. Approximately 4 weeks ago, a member of the inspection team questioned the licensee regarding the switchover from RWST injection to containment sump recirculation during a design basis accident. Part of the concern focused on whether there would be sufficient water in the sump when switchover was performed to provide adequate NPSH. In the course of investigating this issue the licensee was unable to identify a flowpath for a portion of the lower compartment containment spray to reach the containment sump. Specifically, approximately 600 gpm of spray was identified as accumulating in an annulus area below the ice condenser and accumulators with no identifiable flowpath to the containment sump. Based on this undetermined condition the licensee declared containment spray and ECCS inoperable, declared an Unusual Event, and began a dual unit shutdown in accordance with Technical Specification 3.0.3. Containment entries performed following the shutdown have not identified a flowpath

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE A

greater than a 4 inch penetration. The licensee is continuing to analyze the situation and has not yet determined if the issues can be resolved by analysis or if plant modification will be required. Initial investigations into the design of other ice condenser plants indicated design differences such that the issue may not be common, however, Region II personnel will be following up with McGuire, Catawba, Sequoyah, and Watts Bar. NRC staff are also considering a generic correspondence to inform the industry of this event.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Meeting with United States Enrichment Corporation

On September 3, 1997, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff members met with a representative of United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), the gaseous diffusion plant certificate holder, at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. USEC requested the meeting to apprise NRC of its intention to change internal auditing procedures. The proposed changes will make internal audits more performance-based by requiring less time for entrance and exit meetings and report writing, and allowing more time for observing ongoing activities. USEC's overall commitments to the NRC will not need to be changed since the proposed changes would be at the "procedures" level. The NRC staff noted that the proposed changes appear to improve the USEC internal audit program, and that NRC's resident inspectors will monitor the program.

Temporary Amendment to Authorize Evaluation of Fuel Elements

On September 5, 1997, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, in coordination with Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection staff, issued a temporary amendment to Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Navy Nuclear Fuel Division which authorizes non-destructive examination (NDE) of fuel elements at a temporary location adjacent to the Lynchburg, Virginia, facility. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff reviewed and issued the amendment on an expedited basis to authorize B&W to determine the cause of manufacturing problems using equipment not available at the licensed site. B&W has ceased production of certain fuel elements until the cause of the problems can be diagnosed and resolved. The licensee has committed to appropriate safety and security measures for controlling the special nuclear material contained in the elements during the evaluation. A longer term amendment may be required depending on the results of the NDE testing.

Meeting with Nuclear Medical Organizations

On September 7, 1997, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff met with the Nuclear Medicine Caucus and the Council of Affiliated Regional Radiation Oncology Societies while attending the annual meeting of the American College of Radiology. Current activities regarding revision of medical regulations in 10 CFR Part 35 were discussed. Numerous questions from the two organizations regarding possible rulemaking options and the schedule for the rulemaking were answered.

#### Meeting with the Veterans Administration

On September 9, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and Region III met with the Veterans Administration (VA) National Health Physics Program staff in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting focused on the ongoing NRC review of the VA application for a Master Materials License (MML).

During the meeting, NRC representatives discussed a draft deficiency letter which cites NRC staff concerns regarding the application, and requests additional information from VA in order to continue the NRC review. The NRC staff members also addressed concerns such as centralized control of the VA radiation safety program, adequacy and viability of resources, regulatory functions associated with an MML, and continuing use of qualified licensing and inspection staff.

#### Supplement Issued to Users of the VSC-24 Dry Cask Storage System

On September 5, 1997, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards supplemented the May 16, 1997, Confirmatory Action Letters (CALs) issued to the Arkansas Nuclear One, Palisades and Point Beach Nuclear Power Plants (licensees using the VSC-24 spent fuel storage cask) to prohibit loading of additional casks until the licensees (1) implement actions to inhibit the recurrence of the Multi-Assembly Sealed Basket (MSB) seal welding problems, and (2) confirm that all MSBs to be loaded with spent fuel were fabricated in accordance with the necessary regulatory requirements. The CALs will remain in place until Nuclear Regulatory Commission reviews and accepts the corrective actions implemented to inhibit recurrence of MSB seal welding problems,

and reviews and accepts the licensees' confirmation that MSBs not containing fuel were properly fabricated.

#### Meeting with Southern Nuclear Operating Company

On September 4, 1997, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with Southern Nuclear Operating Company (Southern Nuclear) to discuss their plans to establish an independent spent fuel storage installation at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power Plant, near Baxley, Georgia. At Hatch, there are two operating reactors with a common refueling floor and spent fuel pool. At the present time, seventy-five percent of the pool racks are loaded with spent fuel. They expect the remaining twenty-five percent to be filled by the year 2003. Southern Nuclear has decided to pursue dry storage to expand their spent fuel storage capacity. Southern Nuclear indicated that it will need to begin cask loading by the end of 1999 or early 2000.

#### Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement

On September 4, 1997, Division of Waste Management staff, accompanied by staff from the Office of the General Counsel, held an open meeting with representatives from Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) and Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company to discuss the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Parks Township Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) in Parks Township, Pennsylvania. Members of U. S. Congressman Murtha's staff also attended.

Until 1970, the SLDA was used for the disposal of hazardous and low-level wastes from a nuclear fuel fabrication facility in nearby Apollo, Pennsylvania. The materials placed in the trenches consisted of wastes, scrap, and trash. The disposals were made pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 20.304 which were in effect at the time. The DEIS describes and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of B&W's proposed approach to decommissioning the radiologically contaminated waste. The B&W preferred approach would allow radioactive material to remain on site. Under this approach, the wastes would be stabilized by installing an engineered cover system and a system of hydrologic

barriers and controls surrounding the trench areas to provide groundwater protection. A coal mine underlying the SLDA would be stabilized by injecting grout into the voids under the trenches to prevent subsidence. Institutional controls would be required in perpetuity to prevent inadvertent intrusion into the waste.

The DEIS evaluates the radiological and non-radiological impacts associated with the B&W proposed action and four alternative actions, including no action. Based on the evaluations in the DEIS, the NRC staff's preliminary conclusion is that another alternative, "modified stabilization in-place," would protect public health and the environment, and would be less costly than the other alternatives. This alternative would include institutional controls and backfilling of the coal mine, but the engineered barriers and cover would not be implemented. For any of the alternatives, off-site impacts would be low and no off-site dose would be expected.

NRC staff discussed the process for developing the final EIS, including provisions for public involvement, as well as the 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L hearing process. Congressman Murtha's staff expressed concern about possible health effects of leaving waste buried on site, and the effect on future economic development in the area. In addition, the Congressional staff questioned the effectiveness of long-term institutional controls. NRC staff agreed to keep the attendees informed of plans for a public meeting, and agreed to meet separately with Congressman Murtha's staff, if requested.

#### Possible Transfer of Control of Licensed Activities

On September 11, 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a letter to attorneys for United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) stating that it had no objection to proposed mergers which would involve UNC, the licensee for the Church Rock, New Mexico, uranium mill and tailings site. These mergers would result in UNC Incorporated, the licensee's parent corporation, becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of Greenwich Air Services, Inc., which, in turn, would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of General Electric Company. The NRC staff has been informed that existing financial arrangements for the site reclamation surety, which

consist of both a Parent Company Guarantee and a Letter of Credit, will remain in place.

#### Technical Meeting on the Exploratory Studies Facility

On September 10, 1997, Division of Waste Management staff conducted a video- conference with the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors to discuss items of mutual interest regarding progress in scientific investigations at Yucca Mountain and technical issues related to geologic repository design. Representatives from Nye and Clark Counties (Nevada), the State of Nevada, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses also participated. Discussion included an update on the status of scientific studies at the site (including thermal testing and new surface-based drilling), and recent developments related to DOE's engineering design program. DOE reviewed its plans for the use of concrete ground support in the repository, and provided examples of the types of design information the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff can expect to see in a potential license application. During its presentation, DOE also noted that the starting date for construction of the so-called "cross drift" (formerly referred to as the east-west drift) had slipped from September 1997 to sometime in the Spring of 1998.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Regulatory Guide Issued

Regulatory Guide 3.70, "Use of Fixed Neutron Absorbers at Fuels and Materials Facilities," was issued on September 4, 1997.

**Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997**

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS (PNs)**

1. PNO-I-97-057, Baltimore Gas & Elec. Co. (Calvert Cliffs 1),  
PLANNED OUTAGE EXCEEDING 72 HOURS
2. PNO-II-97-052, Tri-State Testing & Drilling Co.. STOLEN  
MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE
3. PNO-III-97-070A, Rivervalley Local School District, BURIED  
SOURCE OF RADIATION FOUND ON SCHOOL CAMPUS (UPDATE)
4. PNO-III-97-075A, Indiana Michigan Electric Co. (Cook 1 2),  
DUAL UNIT SHUTDOWN TO ANALYZE POST-ACCIDENT WATER FLOW IN  
RECIRCULATION COOLING MODE (UPDATE)
5. PNO-III-97-076, Mqs Inspection, Inc., INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY  
EVENT
6. PNO-III-97-077, Iowa Electric Light & Power Co. (Duane  
Arnold 1), PLANT SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR LEAK IN DRAIN LINE OFF  
"A" MAIN STEAM LINE
7. PNO-IV-97-050, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. REACTOR CAISSON  
LEAK REPAIRED
8. PNO-IV-97-051, Syncor International, RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED  
PACKAGES

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE D**

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Electronic Freedom of Information Act: Implementation (Part 9)

A proposed rule that would amend NRC's regulations to implement the Electronic Freedom of Information Act was published in the Federal Register on September 5, 1997 (62 FR 46922). The proposed rule would broaden public access to government information by placing more agency records on-line and expanding the role of the agency public document room. The proposed rule also extends the time for responding to requests that is mandated by statute. The comment closing date for this action is October 6, 1997.

Definition of Safety-Related Structures, Systems, and Components; Technical Amendment (Part 50)

A direct final rule amending the regulations to correct an error in several provisions of the regulations that define the term "safety-related structures, systems, and components" was published in the Federal Register on September 8, 1997 (62 FR 47268). The definitions are revised to be consistent with the definition used in regulations applicable to siting nuclear power plants and the Commission's longstanding practice and interpretation of the term. The final rule becomes effective November 7, 1997.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on September 8, 1997 (62 FR 47272). The comment period closes October 8, 1997.

Financial Assurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors (Part 50)

A proposed rule that would amend regulations concerning financial assurance requirements for the decommissioning of nuclear power plants was published in the Federal Register on September 10, 1997 (62 FR 47588). The proposed amendments respond to questions on whether current financial assurance provisions need to be

modified because of the potential deregulation of the power generating industry. The proposed regulations would require power reactor licensees to submit periodic reports on the status of their decommissioning trust funds and on changes in their external trust agreements. The comment period for this action closes November 24, 1997.

### B&W Inspection

On September 10, 1997, a Division of Facilities and Security (DFS) representative visited the B&W, Lynchburg Tennessee Facility to assist Region II staff in the conduct of a security inspection related to the protection of classified matter. The DFS representative assisted in the inspection and evaluation of licensee compliance with the classification aspects of 10 CFR Part 95, "Security Facility Approval and Safeguarding of National Security Information and Restricted Data," and E. O. 12958, "Classified National Security Information."

### Portsmouth Security Inspection

DFS, OE, NMSS, DOE and Regional staff conducted a telephonic close-out briefing with USEC and Lockheed Martin Utility Services personnel on September 9, 1997, to discuss the results of the September 2-5, 1997, security inspection of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The inspection report is being prepared.

### GSA Year 2000 - Building Systems Group

On September 9, 1997 the Chief, Facilities Branch attended the first meeting of the Interagency Year 2000 Building Systems Subgroup. The Subgroup is chaired by the General Services Administration (GSA) and is intended to serve as a means by which agencies can focus on how the Year 2000 problem might affect building support systems, e.g. elevators and energy management systems. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 personnel representing their agencies. Some agencies, like NRC, have already begun investigating the problem while others are just beginning to look into it. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of September, at which time GSA is expected to present their

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

ENCLOSURE F

program on how they are addressing this issue in GSA operated buildings.

### Procurement Reform

On September 8, 1997, Patricia G. Norry and Edward L. Halman participated in a pledge ceremony sponsored by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), Office of Management and Budget. Pledges were sought by OFPP from Federal agencies to provide incentives for outstanding performance in procurement. By signing the pledge, Mrs. Norry stated that NRC will join other participating Federal agencies to provide awards to teams of employees (in procurement and/or program staff teaming together) who have achieved outstanding results showing excellence in contracting.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Significant FOIA/PA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of  
September 5-11, 1997:

Nuclear testing in Western U.S., 1940 through 1947.  
(FOIA/PA-97-337)

Contract RS-IRM-97-187, NRC Issuances & Indexes.  
(FOIA/PA-97-338)

IMPAC listing with addresses. (FOIA/PA-97-339)

IMPAC listing with addresses on disk. (FOIA/PA-97-340)

Regulation interpretations, regional office interactions.  
(FOIA/PA-97-341)

Contracts, point of contact for identified contracts.  
(FOIA/PA-97-342)

FOIA Annual Report, 1996. (FOIA/PA-97-343)

Contract, site access training and radiation worker training.  
(FOIA/PA-97-344)

Reload Reviews in DSI, 12/20/82 memo from L.G. Hulman to C.H.  
Berlinger. (FOIA/PA-97-345)

OI reports, 3-96-010 and 3-96-010S, regarding Quad Cities.  
(FOIA/PA-97-346)

Manhattan Project, all publicly available records.  
(FOIA/PA-97-347)

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Kickoff for the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area Attended

On September 10, 1997, Jan Clemens and Henry Rubin attended the kickoff for the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) of the National Capital Area. The kickoff was held at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Rodney E. Slater, Secretary of Transportation, who is the 1997 Campaign Chair. NRC's CFC kickoff is scheduled for October 8, 1997, at 9 a.m. in the OWFN first floor Commissioners' Conference Room.

Arrivals		
ASHLEY, Donnie	OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (PFT)	NRR
BAKER, Merritt	CHEMICAL ENGINEER (PFT)	NMSS
WHALEY, Sheena	PROJECT ENGINEER (PFT)	NMSS
Retirements		
None.		
Departures		
BAXTER, Valerie	COMPUTER ASSISTANT (PFT)	RIII
HIGGINS, Lindley	SR MANAGEMENT ANALYST (PFT)	OIG

Office of Small Business & Civil Rights  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings' First Annual Procurement Fair

On September 8, 1997, Von Deloatch, Program Manager, Small Business Program Office of Small Business and Civil Rights, participated in the First Annual Procurement Fair sponsored by Congressman Elijah E. Cummings of Baltimore. The Fair was well attended, attracting more than 1,000 small businesses. It provided small businesses the opportunity to meet with representatives from the private sector and government agencies to discuss procurement opportunities. Mr. Deloatch received information and capability statements from many of the firms that will be put into the SBCR Small Business Inventory. Mayor Curtis Smoot was on hand to meet and greet small business representatives.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE J

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Media Interest

There was some media interest in the architect/engineering design exit meeting at Diablo Canyon.

School Volunteers Program

Louis Numkin, IRM, spoke about computer ethics at a meeting of the Asbury Computer Club.

Press Releases

Headquarters:	
97-128	NRC Issues Additional Letters to Three Utilities on Spent Fuel Storage Cask Welding Problems
97-129	Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Radioisotopes to Meet September 25-26 in Rockville, MD
97-130	NRC Proposes Changes in Decommissioning Funding Rule
97-131	NRC Considers Applying Federal Wrongdoing Guidelines to Agreement States
97-132	Note To Editors: ACRS Meeting September 29-30
Regions:	
I-97-116	Inspections Find Access Authorization Adequate at 3 Northeastern Plants; Regulations Being Reviewed
I-97-117	NRC Staff Assigns New Resident Inspector at Salem

I-97-118	New Inspector Named at Millstone 3
I-97-119	Note to Editors: Meeting with Northeast Utilities
I-97-120	NRC Commissioner Diaz to Hold Press Briefing on Sept. 18 Following Visit to Hope Creek and Salem Nuclear Power Plants
I-97-121	NRC Cites Firm for Violation Involving Transfer of Exit Signs
II-97-64	NRC Staff to Hold Conference With Duke Power Company to Discuss Apparent Violations at McGuire Nuclear Plant
II-97-65	NRC Officials to Meet With Duke Managers at Oconee Nuclear Plant to Discuss Plant Performance and Emergency Power
III-97-83	NRC Staff Proposes \$2,500 Fine Against S. C. Johnson & Sons, for a Radiation Safety Violation
III-97-84	NRC Staff Proposes \$2,750 Fine Against Anheuser-Busch, Inc. for Radiation Safety Violations
IV-97-48	Brad Smalldridge Assigned as NRC Resident Inspector at Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant
IV-97-49	Fort Calhoun Rated "Superior" in One Area, "Good" in Three Others in Latest NRC Assessment Report
IV-97-50	NRC Schedules Design Inspection Meeting for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Decision Documents Released to the Public

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1. SECY- 97- 144	7/11/97	Potential Issues Raised by Non- Owner Operators
- SRM on 97- 144	8/29/97	(same)
- Voting Record on 97- 144	8/29/97	(same)
2. SECY- 97- 156	7/21/97	Application of Federal Government- Wide Conflict of Interest Requirements and NRC Enforcement Policy on Licensee Integrity Issues to Agreement State Programs
- SRM on 97- 156	9/3/97	(same)

	- Voting Record on 97-156	9/3/97	(same)
3.	SECY-97-164	7/25/97	Shipment of Decommissioned Reactor Vessel, Containing Irradiated Internals, From the Trojan Nuclear Plant to Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Richland, Washington
	- SRM on 97-164	8/26/97	(same)
	- Voting Record on 97-164	8/26/97	(same)
4.	SECY-97-184	8/13/97	Proposed Reactor Export Licenses to Combustion Engineering, Inc. to Supply Major Components and Equipment

**for Four  
Nuclear  
Reactor  
Units in  
the  
Republic  
of Korea -  
-  
Applicatio  
ns XR162  
and XR163**

- |                              |         |        |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|
| - SRM on 97-184              | 8/26/97 | (same) |
| - Voting Record<br>on 97-184 | 8/26/97 | (same) |

Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public

- |    |                 |         |  |
|----|-----------------|---------|--|
| 1. | SECY-97-174     | 8/1/97  | NRC<br>Employee<br>Ownership<br>of Energy<br>or Utility<br>Sector<br>Mutual<br>Funds |
|    | - SRM on 97-174 | 8/26/97 | (same)   |

Information Papers Released to the Public

- |    |             |         |   |
|----|-------------|---------|---|
| 1. | SECY-97-196 | 8/28/97 | Weekly<br>Information<br>Report -<br>Week<br>Ending<br>August<br>22, 1997 |
| 2. | SECY-97-197 | 8/29/97 | Equal<br>Employment<br>Opportunit<br>y (EEO)<br>Briefing                  |

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Sook-II Kwun, Korean Minister of Science and Technology, dtd 8/20/97 concerns membership in the International Nuclear Regulators Association
2. Letter to Bob Stone, National Performance Review, dtd 9/2/97 concerns Welfare-to-Work reporting requirements

3. Letter to Huang Qitao, Chinese National Nuclear Safety Administration, dtd 9/2/97 concerns renewal of safety Protocol
4. Letter to Tadashi Ezaki, Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, dtd 9/2/97 expresses congratulations on his new position
5. Letter to Representative Merrill Cook dtd 9/2/97 concerns 2.206 requests by the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality concerning an application submitted by Private Fuel Storage
6. Letter to Representatives Doc Hastings and Virgil Goode dtd 9/2/97 concerns the possession of special nuclear material by Envirocare of Utah, Inc.
7. Letter to Congress dtd 9/3/97 appeals the H. R. 2203 reduction
8. Letter to Senator Olympia Snowe, et al., dtd 9/3/97 concerns decommissioning of the Maine Yankee facility
9. Letter to Senator John Chafee and Representative Thomas Bliley dtd 9/3/97 concerns the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)
10. Letter to Kathleen McGinty, CEQ, dtd 9/5/97 concerns the decommissioning of the Atlas Corporation Moab Mill in Utah

## Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic and Severe-Accident Phenomena; Notice of Meeting on September 29-30, 1997
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting on October 1, 1997

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Licensing Practices and Procedures Course

Region I hosted a course on Licensing Practices and Procedures for materials license reviewers from September 8-12, 1997. Instructors from Region I, TTC and the other Regions provided an overview of licensing policy for all types of materials licensees as well as specific licensing guidance for sealed source and devices, fixed and portable gauges, medical use, industrial radiography, and research and development licenses. Twenty-nine students attended the class, including representatives of all NRC Regions, NMSS, RES, OSP, NRR and several Agreement States.

Disposal of Ruptured Americium-241 Source

On September 2, 1997, Region I was informed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that a load of shredded automobile parts had tripped a radiation alarm at a Michigan recycling facility and had been returned to the shipper, Royal Green Metal Recyclers in Temple, Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth identified the isotope as americium-241 and identified and isolated a ruptured source in the returned material. Surveys of the facility by the Commonwealth, the NRC, and a DOE Radiological Assistance Team have identified no contamination at the Royal Green facility other than the returned material. On September 10, 1997, Royal Green contracted with a consultant who shipped the ruptured source to DOE's Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Commonwealth is working with the EPA, the DOE, and the NRC in its efforts to dispose of the rest of the contaminated load of scrap.

**Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997**

**Training, Emergency Response Data System (ERDS)**

On September 10-11, 1997, officials from the Regional States that have entered into the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commission participated in the ERDS Workshop, which was conducted in the Regional Office by Scientech, Inc. The Regional States that participate in the ERDS MOU are Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE P**

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Wisconsin Electric Power management Meeting - Point Beach Nuclear Power Station

On Thursday, September 12, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Wisconsin Electric Power and members of the NRC staff to discuss the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station. The meeting discussion focused on the facility's improvement initiatives and Unit 1 restart performance. Specific topics discussed included the utility's plans and activities needed to be completed for restart of Unit 1; assessment of the Unit 2 startup; work order backlog; update of NRC commitments; and health physics performance issues.

Special Inspection At LaSalle Nuclear Power Station

On September 8, 1997, a special team consisting of a region-based inspector and the Dresden senior resident inspector were sent to the LaSalle Station. The purpose of the team was to investigate the cause of the 1B emergency diesel generator failure. This failure caused the only operable emergency diesel generator to become inoperable. The team's exit with the utility was conducted on September 12, 1997.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Commonwealth Edison Company

On September 11, 1997, a Predecisional Enforcement Conference was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between representatives of Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The conference was held to discuss apparent violations at the Byron and Braidwood Nuclear Power Stations. The discussion focused on instances at the two plants when the utility did not perform tests required by the plants' NRC licenses to determine if air or other gases had accumulated at certain points in the emergency core cooling system piping and components. This failure was originally identified by a ComEd

engineer at the Braidwood plant in February of last year. However, the utility did not perform the test or seek to have its licenses amended to eliminate the testing requirement. Following an NRC inspection in May which identified these apparent violations, ComEd said they were able to assure that there was no air in the piping by other means and performed special tests to verify that there was no gas accumulation in the piping. Subsequently, NRC granted license amendments for Braidwood Unit 2 and Byron Unit 2. Braidwood Unit 1 and Byron Unit 1 were granted temporary relief from their license requirements to perform the tests pending submittal of a license amendment request.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE P

### Management Changes At Northern States Power Company

On September 4, 1997, Northern States Power Company announced that Bill Hill, manager of the utility's Monticello nuclear power plant, has been promoted to the newly created position of director of nuclear business strategies. Mike Hammer, general superintendent of plant maintenance at Monticello, replaces Hill as plant manager.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 12, 1997

Diablo Canyon Management Meeting

On September 9, 1997, a meeting was held in the Region IV Office with Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the Regional Administrator, and members of the NRC staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss operational performance at the Diablo Canyon facility.

Meeting with Houston Lighting & Power Company

On September 12, 1997, a representative from the South Texas Project met with Region IV personnel, in the Region IV office, to discuss licensee inspection plans for the Unit 1 replacement steam generators.

Quality Assurance Program Overview and Introduction of Quality Assurance Manager

On September 12, 1997, representatives of Washington Public Power Supply System met with DRS personnel in the Region IV office to discuss the Quality Assurance Program Overview and to introduce the new Quality Assurance Manager.

Meeting with TU Electric

On September 12, 1997, TU Electric's Group Vice-President, and the Regulatory Affairs Manager, met with the Region IV Regional Administrator and Division Director for the Division of Reactor Projects. Discussion items included the licensee's planned drop-in visit in HQ with the EDO, scheduled for September 23, 1997, and recent site performance at Comanche Peak.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending September 12, 1997

<b>CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>No. 31</u></b>					
<b>OCA CONTACT</b>	<b>DATE &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>WITNESS</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
Combs	TBA	TBA	Markup	H. R. 1270, Nuclear Waste Policy Act	Reps. Bliley/Dingell Commerce
Combs	09/18 406 DSOB	TBA	Markup	S. 8, Superfund Reauthorization	Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997  
 ENCLOSURE R